SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Sir, I would like to know whether the port has started loading coal mechanically to Madras.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, the project is not yet fully complete. I will get the information and give it to the hon. Member.

Shifting of foreign department of State Bank of India

*85. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move of the State Bank of India to shift foreign department of the Bank from Calcutta to Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that there is no move to shift Foreign Department of the Bank from Calcutta to Mumbai. SBI have further reported that with a view to enhance the competitiveness of the bank, it has become necessary to integrate the Foreign Exchange and the domestic treasury operations envisaging in the process the undertaking of some dealing room functions from Mumbai instead of from Calcutta as at present. Government feel that the places from which certain activities are to be undertaken by the banks should be decided by the banks themselves having regard to their best commercial interests.

SHRI R. JANARTHANAM: Sir, there is no move by the State Bank of India to shift the Foreign Exchange Department from Calcutta to Mumbai. But, some operations relating to financial currencies, only sale and purchase of foreign currencies have been moved to Mumbai. This is done by all the Indian banks. All the banks, foreign corporate companies as also large Indian corporate houses, deal in sizeable foreign exchange operations from Mumbai only. The market in Mumbai, over a period of time, has become the main centre for dealings in foreign exchange. The Government, therefore, feels that this issue should be decided by the banks themselves. As banks themselves are looking into their own commercial interests, the banks are doing this thing also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Functioning of Silchar Doordarshan Kendra

*86. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread discontentment in. the Barak Valley over poor standard of functioning of Silchar Doordarshan Kendra, which being in border area is supposed to be particularly efficient to resist any possible cultural aggression likely to be waged by TV. centres of neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the standared of programmes as well as the extension of the duration of programmes considering its border area importance; and

(c) why is Government procreastinating in arranging the daily telecast of local news in bengali from this centre despite persistent demand for the same?